

**Testimony in Support of Raised Bill No. 7140 – AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING SEAT BELTS, MOTORCYCLE HELMETS, THE
OPERATION LIFESAVER PROGRAM, MAINTENANCE VEHICLES AND TRANSPORTATION STATUTES**

Good afternoon Chairmen Leone and Lemar, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Douglas G. Low and I reside at 3 North Road, Niantic, CT. I am employed by Genesee & Wyoming Co. as a Director, Marketing and Sales assigned to three of the company's subsidiary freight railroads having operations in the State of Connecticut: New England Central Railroad, Inc.; Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. and Providence & Worcester Railroad Co. These three railroads join with the other commercial freight rail operators serving Connecticut in the Connecticut Rail Association.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to provide testimony in **support of Raised Bill No. 7140**, in particular Sec. 4, which provides enhanced provisions for The State of Connecticut thru its Commissioner of Transportation, to work with the national non-profit organization, Operation Lifesaver, with the common interest of improving public safety and providing education regarding railroad crossings at grade.

In this time of increasing traffic on both roads and rails, motor vehicles with internal environmental conditions of external noise control, climate control and audio entertainment undreamed of only a few years ago, a seemingly never-ending flood of consumer electronics endlessly tempting drivers to maintain less than their full attention to motor vehicle operation and when even cyclists and pedestrians are subject to these same distractions, public awareness of grade crossing safety perhaps has never been more important.

The raising of grade crossing awareness and best practices at an early age and its periodic reinforcement by means of the programs designed for the various stages of the public school system, driving instruction course content, guest speakers at a variety of groups & organizations, review of applicable motor vehicle regulations and other venues as may become available is increasingly important as the traditional grade crossing warning devices and procedures compete with the distracting demands of our ever faster paced modern life.

In closing, this Bill's Sec. 4 provides improved means for Connecticut to utilize additional proven resources to improve grade crossing safety.

Thank you.